

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15902

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, OREP, CH, US, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CRITICISM OF CODEL WOLFF REQUEST TO
VISIT SINO-SOVIET BORDER

REF: (A) PEKING 2020, (B) MOSCOW 15733

1. THE SOVIET ARTICLE CITED BY THE SOVIET DEPUTY
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT A
VISIT BY CODEL WOLFF TO A SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA
WAS PROBABLY A JUNE 30 TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON
CARRIED IN
PRAVDA JULY 1. DRAWING ON AN APPARENT PRESS CONFERENCE
HELD BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, TASS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH
WOLFF TRIED TO CONVINCE HIS LISTENERS THAT HIS VISIT
HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH EFFORTS TO "PLAY THE CHINA
CARD AGAINST THE USSR", HIS FURTHER STATEMENTS AT
THE PRESS CONFERENCE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HIS MISSION
GOES FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED
U.S. POLICY. ACCORDING TO TASS, WOLFF HIMSELF WAS
FORCED TO ADMIT THAT THE DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED
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INSTRUCTIONS FROM WHITE HOUSE AND CIA OFFICIALS, AND
MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BRZEZINSKI. MOREOVER,
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. MILITARY ARE SCHEDULED
IN HONOLULU.

2. THE TASS ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT "PROVOCATIVE
CHARACTER" OF THE VISIT BECAME OBVIOUS WHEN WOLFF

ADMITTED THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD TRAVEL TO A

SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA AFTER TALKS IN PEKING WITH HIGH CHINESE OFFICIALS. THE BORDER VISIT WAS NOT FURTHER DESCRIBED BUT TASS NOTED IN THE NEXT SENTENCE THAT THE "ACTIVIZATION OF WASHINGTON'S ATTEMPTS TO USE IN A GLOBAL GAME THE 'CHINESE CARD' AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION" IS A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL JUNE 30 IS QUOTED IN CONCLUSION IN LENGTH TO UNDERSCORE THE "NARROW-SIGHTEDNESS" OF THE POLICY IN TERMS OF WORLD PEACE AND U.S. INTERESTS.

3. COMMENT: FACT THAT TASS PICKED UP AND REPORTED CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S PRESS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS THE TREATMENT GIVEN DR. PRESS' VISIT TO PEKING (REF B) SUGGESTS THE ACUTE SENSITIVITY NOW IN EVIDENCE HERE ABOUT HINTS OF POSSIBLE CHANGES IN U.S. CHINA POLICY. SOVIET ANTENNAE HAVE BEEN OUT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IN THIS RESPECT BUT THEIR CONCERN INVARIABLY HEIGHTENS WHEN TRIPS TO THE PRC BY HIGH LEVEL U.S. VISITORS ARE INVOLVED. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY OTHER REFERENCE IN THE SOVIET PRESS TO A POSSIBLE VISIT BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TO A BORDER AREA BUT OBVIOUSLY THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH INTENSE INTEREST BY
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SOVIET OBSERVERS.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT: IN REQUESTING ACCESS TO SOVIET GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, INSTALLATIONS, AND OFFICIALS, FUTURE CODELS TO USSR MIGHT WISH TO NOTE THAT PEKING IS OFTEN FAR MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN SOVIETS IN HANDLING Codel REQUESTS. FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT, HOWEVER, SUCH COMMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WELL ENOUGH IN ADVANCE SO AS TO SINK IN AMONG MOSCOW TRIP PLANNERS. TOON

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